

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 041747Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 890

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, IT, GE, UR

SUBJECT: ENRICO AILLAUD TO BE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO SOVIET UNION

1. THE EMBASSY IS RELIABLE INFORMED (WE UNDERSTAND AN ARTICLE HAS ALSO APPEARED IN THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG) THAT ENRICO AILLAUD, PRESENTLY ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR WILL BE HIS COUNTRY'S NEXT AMBASSADOR TO THE SOVIET UNION. AILLAUD IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE UP HIS NEW DUTIES IN THE LATE SUMMER.

2. ITALY'S AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA, PRAGUE AND WARSAW PRIOR TO COMING TO EAST BERLIN IN THE FALL OF 1973, AILLAUD IS ONE OF HIS COUNTRY'S MOST EXPERIENCED COMMUNIST EXPERTS. HOWEVER, THE PLANNED MOVE TO MOSCOW COMES AS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE TO LOCAL OBSERVERS SINCE IT HAD BEEN ASSUMED THAT AT AGE 65 THIS WOULD BE AILLAUD'S LAST DIPLOMATIC POST. MOREOVER, AILLAUD HAD APPARENTLY HAD

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HIS EYE ON THE MOSCOW POST TWO YEARS AGO AS THE CAPSTONE

TO HIS CAREER AND REPORTEDLY SETTLED FOR EAST BERLIN AS A CONSOLATION PRIZE. HENCE, THE PRESENT NEWS MIRRORS A RATHER REMARKABLE TURNABOUT IN AILLAUD'S FORTUNES.

3. AILLAUD WAS THE THIRD NATO AMBASSADOR TO ARRIVE IN EAST BERLIN AND IS THE FIRST TO DEPART THE POST. SINCE PRESENTING HIS CREDENTIALS ON OCTOBER 1, 1973, HE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE LOCAL CORPS' MOST ACTIVE MEMBERS. ILLUSTRATIVE OF HIS STYLE AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THIS CITY WAS THE MINOR SENSATION CREATED BY HIS DECEMBER 1973 LUNCHEON FOR ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF BERLINGUER WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY SED FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER. DURING HIS TENURE, ITALY SUCCEEDED IN CONCLUDING A LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL AGREEMENT WITH THE GDR AS WELL AS MOUNTING IN BERLIN AN EXHIBIT OF MODERN ITALIAN SCULPTURE, WHICH WAS PRECEDED BY LONG AND DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EAST GERMANS.

4. AN ACTIVE AND CHARMING HOST, AILLAUD IS REPUTED TO BE A DIFFICULT AND DEMANDING SUPERVISOR. HE IS A FIRST-RATE POLITICAL OBSERVER AND ANALYST, AND EXTREMELY CORDIAL IN HIS DEALINGS WITH AMERICANS. HE IS PARTIAL TO NEW ORLEANS WHERE HE SERVED AS CONSUL GENERAL IN THE 1950S AND WHERE A DAUGHTER WAS BORN. AILLAUD IS ABLY SUPPORTED BY HIS WIFE WHO HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN ABSENT FROM BERLIN FOR PROTRACTED PERIODS ALLEGEDLY DUE TO HER SENSITIVITY TO THE COLD WINTERS.COOPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERLIN05792
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750195-0986
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750679/aaaacubt.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENRICO AILLAUD TO BE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO SOVIET UNION
TAGS: PDIP, IT, GC, UR, (AILLAUD, ENRICO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006